Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image-processing device comprising:

an image information generating part for dividing captured image data consisting of a signal having a plurality of data values of a plurality of pixels into a plurality of small areas, said small areas each consisting of a plurality of the pixels, and for generating, for each of said small areas, image information indicating a characteristic of the captured image data;

~~an evaluation~~ a luminance value determining part for determining ~~an evaluation~~ a luminance value indicating luminosity for each of the plurality of small areas; ~~and~~

an evaluation value determining part for calculating an evaluation value for each of the plurality of pixels, the evaluation value being calculated by selecting the small areas having shorter distances to a pixel for each of the pixels, and calculating the evaluation value for each pixel by weighing the respective luminance values of the selected small areas in accordance with the distance from each pixel to the small areas selected for each pixel; and

an image-processing part for performing correction ~~an image processing~~ on each of the pixels of the captured image data according to the evaluation value determined by said evaluation value determining part ~~for a small area to which a pixel belongs and the evaluation value determined for small areas adjacent to the small area~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The image-processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said image-processing part includes a luminance level correcting part for correcting a luminance level of the captured image data; and

said luminance level correcting part determines a luminance level correcting coefficient used for the luminance level correction according to the evaluation value for each of said pixels determined by said evaluation value determining part so as to perform the luminance level correction processing on each of said pixels by using the coefficient.

3. (Previously Presented) The image-processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said evaluation value determining part performs a smoothing processing on the image information for each of said small areas generated by said image information generating part and determines the evaluation value according to the smoothed image information for each of the said small areas.

4. (Previously Presented) The image-processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said evaluation value determining part performs a pre-correction processing on the image information for each of said small areas generated by said image information generating part in accordance with a characteristic of a photo-taking lens used for generating the captured image data, and then determines the evaluation value according to the pre-corrected image information for each of said small areas.

5. (Original) The image-processing device according to claim 1, wherein

said evaluation value determining part determines the evaluation value by weighting the image information for each of said small areas in accordance with a ratio of distances from a pixel as a subject for the evaluation-value determination to a predetermined point in each of said small areas whose image information is to be referred to for the evaluation-value determination.

6. (Currently Amended) A digital still camera comprising:

an image-capturing part for capturing a subject to generate captured image data

consisting of a signal having a plurality of data values of a plurality of pixels;

an image information generating part for dividing the captured image data generated by said image-capturing part into a plurality of small areas, said small areas each consisting of a plurality of the pixels, and for generating, for each of said small areas, image information indicating a characteristic of the captured image data;

a luminance ~~an evaluation~~ value determining part for determining ~~an evaluation~~ a luminance value according to the image information generated for each of said small areas and to the image information generated for each of small areas adjacent to the each of said small areas, the ~~evaluation~~ luminance value indicating luminosity of each of the pixels constituting the captured image data; ~~and~~

an evaluation value determining part for calculating an evaluation value for each of the plurality of pixels, the evaluation value being calculated by selecting the small areas having shorter distances to a pixel for each of the pixels, and calculating the evaluation value for each pixel by weighing the respective luminance values of the selected small areas in accordance with the distance from each pixel to the small areas selected for each pixel; and

an image-processing part for performing correction ~~image data processing~~ on each of the pixels of the captured image data according to the evaluation value determined by said evaluation value determining part.

7. (Original) The digital still camera according to claim 6, further comprising a divisional photometry part for dividing a subject field into a plurality of photometry areas and performing photometry for each of the photometry areas, wherein

said image information generating part generates the image information based on information obtained from said divisional photometry part.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having

computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

dividing captured image data consisting of a signal having a plurality of data values of a plurality of pixels into a plurality of small areas, said small areas each consisting of a plurality of the pixels, and for generating, for each of said small areas, image information indicating a characteristic of the captured image data;

determining ~~an evaluation~~ a luminance value according to the image information generated for each of said small areas and the image information generated for each of small areas adjacent to the each of said small areas, the ~~evaluation~~ luminance value indicating luminosity of each of the pixels constituting the captured image data; ~~and~~

calculating an evaluation value for each of the plurality of pixels, the evaluation value being calculated by selecting the small areas having shorter distances to a pixel for each of the pixels, and calculating the evaluation value for each pixel by weighing the respective luminance values of the selected small areas in accordance with the distance from each pixel to the small areas selected for each pixel; and

performing correction ~~image data processing~~ on each of the pixels of the captured image data according to the evaluation value determined in the evaluation-value ~~determining~~ calculating step.